Undergraduate Catalog 2019/2020

Spring 2020 Addendum #2

In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the university made several academic policy, guideline and process changes during the Spring 2020 semester. This addendum documents those changes. Each section below contains the standard policy or guideline and where it is located in the catalog, as well as the Spring 2020 related policy, guideline, and/or process change(s).

Final Exams

Standard Guideline

Under *Absences, Assessment, Attendance, and Syllabus* (p. 63)

Final Examination: There shall be a final examination and/or assessment in every undergraduate course. Exceptions may be made with the written approval of the department chair or other appropriate unit administrator.

Spring 2020 Change

For Spring 2020, the final exam requirement was waived for all courses.

Drop Period

Standard Guideline

Under *Schedule Adjustment and Drop Period* (p. 77)

The drop period for undergraduate students will begin at the close of the schedule adjustment period and terminate at the end of the tenth week of classes for the fall and spring semesters. Consult the academic calendar at http://registrar.umd.edu/deadlines.html for dates.

Spring 2020 Change

The deadline to drop a course with a W was extended to May 12, the last day of classes.

Pass-Fail Grading

Standard Policy

Under *Pass-Fail Grading* (p.69)

The following Pass-Fail policy was approved by the Board of Regents for implementation beginning with the Spring 1989 semester.

1. To register for a course under the pass-fail option, an undergraduate must have completed 30 or more credit hours of college credit with a GPA of at least 2.0. At least 15 of these credit hours must have been completed at the University of Maryland, College Park with a University of Maryland GPA of at least 2.0.
2. Courses for which this option applies must be electives in the student's program. The courses may not be college, major, field of concentration, or general education program requirements.
3. Only one course per semester may be registered for under the pass-fail option.
4. No more than 12 semester hours of credit may be taken under the pass-fail option during a student's college career.
5. Students may not choose this option when re-registering for a course.
6. When registering under the pass-fail option, a course that is passed will count as hours in the student's record but will not be computed in the grade point average. A course that is failed will appear on the student's record and will be computed both in the overall average and the semester average.
7. Students registering for a course under the pass-fail option are required to complete all regular course requirements. Their work will be evaluated by the instructor by the normal procedure for letter grades. The instructor will submit the normal grade. The grades A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D or D- will automatically be converted by the Office of the Registrar to the grade P on the student's permanent record. The grade F will remain as given. The choice of grading option may be changed only during the schedule adjustment period for courses in which the student is currently registered.

Spring 2020 Change

The default grading method for all undergraduate courses was set to pass/fail grading with the option to select the regular grading method. Courses that ended prior to March 23 were not eligible for the pass/fail grading method change.

All student transcripts for the Spring 2020 semester include a notation explaining the default use of pass/fail grading.

Timeline

Students initially had the option of switching the grading method for their courses from the default of pass/fail grading to the regular grading method through May 12, the last day of classes, using a website (https://app.testudo.umd.edu/#/main/gradeoptions?termId=202001) specifically designed to update their courses' grading methods. Due to confusion around the requirement, process, and timing to decline the pass/fail grading option, the grading method site was reopened on May 22 and closed again on May 31 .

During the period of time that the grading method change website was open, students were able to make changes as many times as they wished. All of a student's classes were graded as pass/fail UNLESS they indicated their choice to receive a letter grade for one or more of their classes. Students who did not want to opt out of pass/fail grading for any of their courses did not need to take any action.

The last day to opt out of pass/fail grading and to receive a letter grade was May 31, 2020.

Requirements and Prerequisites

The requirement that pass/fail courses not be college, major, field of concentration, or general education program requirements was also waived for Spring 2020. Students were able to meet requirements for major, concentration, minor, General Education, benchmark, gateway courses for Limited Enrollment Programs, and Academic Writing courses with a grade of P for the Spring 2020 semester.

Earning a P in classes that are prerequisites to other classes (e.g., MATH140 is needed to progress to MATH141) also allowed students to progress on to the next course in the sequence.

Study Abroad Resident Credit

Resident credit study abroad courses were included in the default to pass/fail grading. Students in courses that are offered as resident credit on Maryland-in and USAC study abroad programs received pass/fail grades as a default, UNLESS they opted in to take one or more of their resident credit classes for a letter grade.

Study abroad students in Maryland-in and USAC programs with resident credit received a message from Education Abroad with specific instructions on how to opt in for a grade in resident credit courses and did not follow the regular process for College Park courses. The deadline to make this request was based on the last day of classes for a student's program.

Academic Dismissal

Standard Guideline

Under *Academic Dismissal and Probation* (p. 65)

1. Students who have earned 60 or more credits will be dismissed if their cumulative GPA remains below 2.0 for two consecutive semesters (excluding winter and summer terms). Students who attain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 in the preceding winter or summer term will not be subject to dismissal.
2. Students who have earned fewer than 60 credits will be dismissed following any probationary semester in which they fail to attain a minimum 2.0 semester GPA and complete the requisite credits detailed under Academic Probation. Students who attain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 in the preceding winter or summer term will not be subject to dismissal.
3. Students who have been academically dismissed and who are reinstated will be academically dismissed again if a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 is not achieved by the end of the first semester after reinstatement. Reinstated students will not be allowed to add or drop courses, or to register during any semester without the approval of an academic advisor in their college, unless a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 is achieved.
4. The Office of the Registrar will notify the appropriate University offices when students are academically dismissed and will note the dismissal on the student's academic record.
5. The Student Success Office will notify students via email. The email will include a statement that registration for the next semester (excluding winter or summer terms) will be canceled.

Spring 2020 Change

Students who were on academic dismissal after Spring 2020 were automatically reinstated for Fall 2020 and notified by the Office of Student Success. Their student record reflects 'Academic Dismissal.'

Academic Probation

Standard Policy

Under *Academic Dismissal and Probation* (p. 65)

Students will be placed on academic probation if their cumulative GPA falls below 2.0. Normally, a student is expected to attain a 2.0 cumulative GPA at the end of any probationary semester. Students who fail to achieve a 2.0 cumulative GPA at the end of their probationary semester may be academically dismissed, depending on their credit level as detailed below.

1. Students who have earned 60 credits or more will be dismissed from the University in the event their cumulative GPA remains below 2.0 at the end of their probationary semester. Students who are on probation and attain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 at the end of a winter or summer term will not be subject to dismissal in the subsequent semester.
2. Students who are on academic probation and have earned fewer than 60 credits will be permitted to continue on academic probation if a minimum semester GPA of 2.0 is achieved in each semester of probation.
    a. Full-time students must complete 9 or more credits in each semester of probation. A completed credit is defined as credit for any course in which a student receives a grade of A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-. F, P, or S.
    b. Students who meet this requirement will be permitted to continue on probation until the close of the semester (excluding winter and summer terms) in which they attain a cumulative GPA of 2.0.
    c. However, students who are on probation will be dismissed if they have not achieved a cumulative GPA of 2.0 at the end of the semester in which they complete 60 credits.
    d. Students who are on probation and attain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 at the end of a winter or summer term will not be subject to dismissal in the subsequent semester.
3. The Office of the Registrar will notify students when they are placed on academic probation. Such notices will include a requirement that the students consult an academic advisor in their colleges early in the probationary semester and in no event later than the beginning of the early registration period for the next semester. The Office of the Registrar will notify the colleges of students who are placed on academic probation and will note the academic probationary status on the students' academic record.
    a. The academic advisors will assist students in developing appropriate plans for achieving satisfactory academic performance.
    b. Students who are placed on probation will not be allowed to add or drop courses, or register without the approval of an academic advisor in their college.

Spring 2020 Change

Students on academic probation in the Spring 2020 semester will remain on academic probation as a mark of P cannot bring up their GPA. Students who were on probation, opted in for letter grades for one or more classes, and earned a cumulative 2.0 will be in good academic standing.

Latin Honors

Standard Policy

Under *Graduation Application and Latin Honors* (p. 67)

Summa cum laude, magna cum laude and cum laude are the highest Latin honors that the University bestows for sustained excellence in scholarship. They generally are awarded to the top 10% of all students graduating in each College or School, and all students receiving at least a 3.9 grade-point average. Summa cum laude is awarded to students with a GPA equal to or greater than the highest two percent of GPAs from the specific College or School averaged over the previous academic

year, magna cum laude to the next highest three percent, and cum laude to the following five percent. To be eligible for this recognition, at least 60 semester hours must be earned at the University or at a program in which credit earned is counted as University of Maryland, College Park, resident credit (contact the Office of the Registrar to determine program eligibility). No more than 6 credits taken pass/fail or satisfactory/fail grade modes shall count toward the 60-hour minimum. No student with a grade-point average of less than 3.3 will be considered for a Latin honor. See the Office of the Registrar's website (www.registrar.umd.edu (http://www.registrar.umd.edu/)) for a list of minimum GPA cut-offs (for the current year) for each honor designation, published by College or School.

Spring 2020 Change

Any student who needed the Spring 2020 term to meet the 60 UMD credit minimum will not be penalized for the campus' decision to move to Pass/Fail grading. Courses taken P/F during Spring 2020 will not count against the 6 credit limit of P/F credits towards this requirement. NOTE: Courses that a student was registered for with P/F prior to this change in grading will still count toward this 6 credit limit.

The GPA ranges for Latin Honors for 2020 - 2021 academic year will be the same as 2019 - 2020 academic year.

Repeat Course Guidelines

Standard Guideline

Under *Repeat Course Guidelines* (p.69)

Students may not choose the Pass-Fail option when re-registering for a course or re-register for a course in which a grade of "I" has been noted.

Spring 2020 Change

Students who repeated a course in Spring 2020 and used the pass/fail grading method as a result of the university's switch to pass/fail grading can still receive credit for that course.

For repeated courses that are considered for forgiveness, the higher grade was used in the GPA calculation. For the purpose of the repeat policy, a P is considered higher than the following grades: D-, D, D+ or F. If a student received a grade of C- or higher on their previous attempt, that course remained in their GPA calculation. If the P grade was the higher grade, the P grade itself did not factor into the student's GPA; the previous grade just no longer was included in the GPA calculation.

For repeated courses that were not considered for forgiveness, the P grade did NOT factor into the GPA as per established university pass/fail policy and the GPA continued to include the previous letter grade received with its credit and quality point values.

Transfer Credit

Standard Guideline

Under *Acceptability of Undergraduate Transfer Credits* (p. 79)

Generally, college-level courses completed at regionally-accredited institutions will be acceptable and awarded transfer credit, provided the course is similar in **level, scope, content and expected learning outcomes** to courses offered at the University of Maryland and a grade of "C-" or higher is earned.

Spring 2020 Change

UMD will accept grades of Pass and C- or better from other institutions for the Spring 2020 semester. (Transfer courses completed at public institutions of higher education in the State of Maryland are acceptable for transfer with a grade of "D-" or higher).